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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /062 W
----------105637 300053Z /72
R 292351Z AUG 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5072

UNCLAS USUN 2772

PASS AMBASSADOR YOUNG, STONEY COOKS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)
SUBJECT: NEWS COVERAGE

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF AUG. 28-29 NEWS COVERAGE OF OWEN-YOUNG MISSION AND OTHER EVENTS.

2. OWEN-YOUNG. NEWSWEEK SEPT. 5 ISSUE (OUT AUG. 29) LED INTERNATIONAL SECTION WITH ARTICLE "PEACE-PLAN SAFARI." IT BEGAN: "THEY CAME ACROSS A BIT LIKE THE HARDY BOYS -- TWO DASHING DIPLOMATS WHO WERE DETERMINED TO SUCCEED WHERE SUCH ELDERS AS HENRY KISSINGER HAD FAILED." OWEN QUOTED AS SAYING FAILURE OF MISSION "MIGHT WELL BE ITS FATE." BUT THE "IRREPRESSIBLE" YOUNG SAID: "IT CAN'T FAIL. THERE WILL BE PROGRESS MADE OR THERE MAY BE A SETBACK, BUT IT'S ONLY FAILURE IF YOU QUIT." ARTICLE CONCLUDED "THE QUESTION WAS HOW THEY WERE GOING TO GET ALL THE FORCES INVOLVED IN THE COMPLEX RHODESIAN EQUATION TO AGREE ON ANYTHING." OWEN SEEMED TO BELIEVE SUPPORT FOR PEACE PLAN WOULD BUILD WHEN ALL ELEMENTS BECOME PUBLIC, NEWSWEEK SAID. YOUNG ALSO DESCRIBED AS OPTIMISTIC, SAYING "AT SOME POINT OR OTHER, PEOPLE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO SIT DOWN AND DECIDE ON THE TERMS OF THE CONTINUATION OF THAT
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NATION."....WIRES AND NEWSPAPERS CARRIED EXTENSIVE REPORTS. SAMPLES: UPI FROM PRETORIA AUG. 29 REPORTED OWEN-YOUNG BRIEFING OF VORSTER ON "LAST CHANCE" PLAN AND SAID "UNEXPECTED" SECOND MEETING WAS CALLED FOR MONDAY NIGHT. WIRES ALSO REPORTED REMOVAL BY PRETORIA POLICE OF ANTI-YOUNG PLACARDS IN CITY STREETS. A.P. (MAUREEN JOHNSON) AUG. 29 QUOTED "OBSERVERS" SAYING SECOND ROUND

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OF TALKS WITH VORSTER WAS INDICATION TALKS WERE NOT GOING
SMOOTHLY.... WASH POST (OTTAWAY) AUG. 29 SAID "BLACK
RHODESIAN NATIONALIST LEADERS INDICATED CLEARLY (IN
LUSAKA SUNDAY) THEY ARE OPPOSED TO ONE OF KEY PROVISIONS"
OF PLAN, "RAISING FRESH DOUBTS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE
BRITISH-AMERICAN INITIATIVE." STORY SAID MUGABE AND NKOMO
"IN EFFECT REJECTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEUTRAL
INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN AN INTERIM
PERIOD BEFORE ELECTIONS" IN
RHODESIA... NYTIMES NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOHN BURNS,
WRITING AUG. 28 FROM SALISBURY, SAID MANY IN SALISBURY
"WHOSE INTERESTS ARE NOT INVOLVED" (EVIDENTLY A REFERENCE
TO JOURNALISTS) "ARE QUESTIONING WHETHER IAN SMITH CAN BE
BLAMED AS HE WAS WHEN PAST EFFORTS COLLAPSED." ARTICLE
SPECULATES SMITH HAS MADE "FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE OF
COURSE" AND "UNDER INEXORABLE ECONOMIC, MILITARY AND
POLITICAL PRESSURE, NOW MEANS TO TRANSFER POWER TO
THE 6.3 MILLION BLACKS SO LONG AS HE CAN GET A
CONSTITUTION THAT WILL ENCOURAGE WHITES TO STAY." ARTICLE
SAYS OBSERVERS -- AGAIN, APPARENTLY JOURNALISTS IN
SALISBURY -- ARE "PUZZLED" BECAUSE UK AND US MEDIATORS
"CONTINUE TO VIEW SMITH AS AN UNRECONSTRUCTED PROCRASTINATOR
SEEKING TO BLOCK BLACK EMANCIPATION BY ALL AVAILABLE
STRATEGEMS." SOME OBSERVERS "GO FURTHER, BELIEVING THAT
U.S. HAS BECOME A PARTNER TO A BRITISH POLICY THAT PLACES
MORE EMPHASIS ON PUNISHING SMITH FOR HIS REBELLION THAN ON
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ACHIEVING A WORKABLE AND DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION THAT OFFERS
SOME SECURITY TO WHITES."

3. VANCE TRIP. PRESIDENT CARTER AUG. 27 IN WASHINGTON
SAID SECSTATE ACHIEVED "A MAJOR STEP" TOWARD NORMALIZING
RELATIONS WITH CHINA IN VANCE TRIP TO PEKING LAST WEEK.
PRESIDENT SAID ADMINISTRATION'S OBJECTIVES HAD BEEN "LIMITED"
AND THE DISCUSSIONS "EXPLORATORY," BUT THAT THEY WERE
"HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL." PRESIDENT SAID CHINESE LEADERS HAD
ALREADY SENT HIM WORD THAT TALKS WERE "VERY FRUITFUL FROM
THEIR POINT OF VIEW."

4. SOUTH AFRICA AND THE BOMB. WASH POST AND NYTIMES AUG. 29
RAN LONG STORIES ON WESTERN-SOVIET COOPERATION IN HEADING
OFF SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSIION. POST: "FOR FIRST
TIME SINCE DAWN OF NUCLEAR AGE... WORLD'S LEADING
POWERS, EAST AND WEST, WORKED IN CONCERT TO BACK AWAY A
LESSER NATION FROM THRESHOLD OF ENTRY INTO NUCLEAR WEAPON
CLUB. IF THIS COOPERATION CAN BE BUTTRESSED
AND EXTENDED -- AND IF TIMELY WARNING THROUGH INTELLIGENCE
IS AVAILABLE IN THE FUTURE -- WHAT HAPPENDED WITHOUT MUCH
PUBLIC NOTICE IN THESE PAST WEEKS MAY SET A PATTERN OF

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HISTORIC IMPORTANCE." NYTIMES ARTICLE STRESSED THAT
SOVIET- AMERICAN COOPERATION SEEMED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE TWO.

5. SAHEL. NYTIMES AUG. 28 REPORTED ON START OF UN
DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI THIS WEEK,
AND A.P. FROM PARIS REPORTED "EXTRAORDINARILY LOW RAINFALL"
IN SAHEL THREATENS REPEAT OF GREAT DROUGHT THAT ENDED
IN 1974.

6. OWEN-YOUNG. MONDAY NIGHT AUG. 29 ABC NEWS (CIOFFI)
HAD LONG REPORT ON OWEN-YOUNG MISSION. FROM PRETORIA,
CIOFFI SAID IAN SMITH HAS TWO STRENGTHS, ARMY AND SOUTH
AFRICA, "AND IF HE LOSES EITHER" HE KNOWS HE IS IN TROUBLE.
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HE SAID IN TALKS WITH VORSTER MONDAY, OWEN AND YOUNG SAID
THEY WOULD MAKE NO "DEALS" FOR SOUTH AFRICAN
COOPERATION, AND YOUNG SAID U.S. POLICY TOWARD SOUTH
AFRICAN WOULD NOT BE CHANGED. CIOFFI REPORT FOLLOWED BY
REX ELLIS OF ABC REPORTING FROM SALISBURY ON SMITH'S
CAMPAIGNING. ELLIS SAID "LITTLE DOUBT" SMITH WILL GET
MANDATE IN WEDNESDAY ELECTION TO "SETTLE PROBLEMS HIS WAY."

LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEWS COVERAGE
TAGS: OVIP, (YOUNG, ANDREW J)
To: NAIROBI
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